

Dear 2nd District Friends:

Spring 2008

The 2008 session of the Legislature adjourned on March 13. We made some important advances with a very cautious eye to the state's economy. The 60-day session was very busy, and I am pleased with the success we had, especially with the passage of some very important health care issues I'd worked on this session. I will detail those events inside this newsletter.

In March, the state Economic and Revenue Forecast Council projected our state revenue collections would be \$423 million less than expected because of the tighter economy. We took that into account and passed a fiscally responsible supplemental budget. But, we were still able to lay a solid plan for our state's future.

I hope you will join me for a series of Town Hall meetings on May 10. The locations are listed on the front page of this newsletter. It will be a good opportunity for us to talk about the issues of the session and about issues that are most important to you.

I also invite you to get in touch with me anytime if you have any questions about the 2008 Legislature or ideas for next year by calling my Olympia office (360) 786-7912 or through my e-mail address: campbell.tom@leg.wa.gov. It's an honor for me to serve you in the State House of Representatives.

Sincerely,



Representative Tom Campbell

State Representative **Tom Campbell** 2nd Legislative District (R)

Representing citizens of Pierce County, including McKenna, Rainier, Roy, Ft. Lewis, Spanaway, Orting, Graham and the City of Eatonville; and Yelm and Lawrence Lake in Thurston County.



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State Representative
TOM CAMPBELL
P.O. Box 40600
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**TOWN HALL
MEETINGS!**

Saturday, May 10th, 2008

See front cover for details

2008 SESSION REVIEW

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State Representative **TOM CAMPBELL**



2nd Legislative District



2008 SESSION REVIEW

Mark your
calendar:

**TOWN HALL
MEETINGS**

**Saturday
May 10th, 2008**

Saturday, May 10th, 2008

Orting 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.
Orting Public Safety Building
401 Washington Ave. SE

Graham 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Graham Fire Station
23014 70th Ave. E

Yelm 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Yelm City Hall
Council Chambers Room
105 Yelm Ave. W

■ Health care provider discipline bill finally law

Legislation I've been working to get passed for four years -- to create a uniform system of disciplining incompetent or dangerous health care providers -- finally has become law!

The new law establishes a system of discipline of health care providers for theft, fraud and incompetence that is harmful to the patient. Such incidents will go directly to the boards and commissions that are better staffed to evaluate and sanction misconduct. All sexual misconduct investigations will be handled by the Department of Health.

This is the first time in 30 years -- since the creation of the Uniform Disciplinary Act -- the Legislature has taken such a bold step to deal with these issues. This law will allow the permanent revocation of licenses of incompetent health practitioners.

Another very important aspect of the bill is a process of background checks of all health care providers who seek to be licensed in our state.

Most health care providers are very competent, professional and conscientious but, as in every profession, there is always a persistent few who should not be practicing health care.

Adverse health events, incidents bill becomes law

We've heard on occasion stories of medical errors such as removing the wrong leg in an amputation surgery, or a clamp or other such medical devise inadvertently left in a patient's body after surgery.

This year we passed a new law to protect citizens who must make decisions about their health care based on their right to know the facilities that are most prone to problems.

This new law opens up the reporting process on such instances of adverse health events and serious errors so the public can know the success record of the health facility they choose. It goes a long way toward our goal of 'transparency' so the public can make informed health care choices.

Meth-vehicle bill

This session, I introduced legislation that requires decontamination or demolition of 'mobile methamphetamine labs,' usually older cars or trucks that are contaminated with toxic chemicals. That bill won unanimous support in the both the House and the Senate and was signed into law by the Governor.

As Chairman of the House Environmental Health Committee, this issue is a growing concern to our communities. The problem of 'mobile met labs' came to our attention because very often these older vehicles are sold to unsuspecting buyers who are not aware of the toxic chemical history of the vehicles.

This new law, which covers contamination by methamphetamines as well as other illegal drugs, will require sellers to either decontaminate the vehicle or demolish it. It will also require a report of its contamination on the vehicle's title.



Gov. Gregoire signs into law the major bill to discipline incompetent or dangerous health care providers. She commended Rep. Campbell for his tireless effort to get the bill passed.

■ 2008 Supplemental Budget invests in education, economic development and public health

I supported the state supplemental budget this year because, while it wasn't everything I'd like to see, it does a lot of good for our state. The supplemental budget invests in education, economic development and public health. What's very encouraging is the \$850 million reserve fund including more than \$445 million in the voter-approved 'rainy day' fund to deal with any economic downturn.

The budget will strengthen our public schools with a program for all-day kindergarten; a 'cost-of-living' increase for teachers; improving access to higher education; and investing in greater job growth in our state.

Tax exemption for disabled veterans

The Governor has signed a law I'd worked on for a number of years to change the way our counties look at disability checks our state's disabled veterans receive from the federal government.

Sadly, over the years, counties in Washington considered federal disability payments for veterans who were injured in the military service to be 'income!' The federal government does not. So when a disabled vet received his/her disability check, the county auditor would add that to their income, often pushing them over the \$35,000 lid, disqualifying them for property tax exemptions.

This new disabled veterans' tax exemption will help thousands of Washington Veterans who have served their country so well. It clarified that veterans' disability payments from the federal government are not 'income,' which will give our veterans a benefit in property taxes in our state. This is especially important in light of the growth in house values and increased property costs. I'm so pleased the Governor signed my bill into law to help disabled veterans who have done so much for our country.

Yelm bypass project benefits from transportation budget

The Supplemental Transportation Budget includes \$5.1 million for the Yelm bypass project on State Route 510 and 507. Last session we approved \$21.4 million for the next phase of the Yelm Loop Road. The four-mile, three-lane highway will loop State Routes 510 and 507 to bypass the Yelm city-center, relieving the city's growing traffic congestion.

Baron siblings serve as House Pages



Elizabeth Baron



John Paul Baron

Rep. Tom Campbell sponsored House Pages Elizabeth and John Paul Baron. The sister and brother are children of Christopher and Laura Baron of Roy. The Barons have 11 adopted children from all over the world, in addition to the three sons they raised.

State Representative **TOM CAMPBELL**

2008 SESSION REVIEW

Select Committee on Environmental Health scores big on toxic toys

Last session the House created a new committee to deal with environmental health issues, and I am proud to be named the Chairman of the bi-partisan committee. This session we passed, and the Governor signed into law, a very important bill to remove toxic materials from children's toys.



Unsafe levels of lead and other toxic substances used in the manufacture of children's toys has been a problem for years. Such toxic chemicals harm young growing brains and bodies.

This new law prohibits manufacturers from selling children's products that contain unsafe levels of lead, cadmium or phthalates. The new law also requires the Department of Ecology to identify other substances that could provide a risk to children, and requires manufacturers to notify the state when products contain such risky substances.

Two important environmental health bills pass House, not Senate

Two environmental health issues that sailed through the House, unfortunately died in the Senate. These issues will certainly come up again next session to deal with the concerns.

Lead wheel weights

One issue of growing concern is the problem of lead wheel weights that fall off car wheels on our roadways and taint our environment. Forty tons of toxic lead wheel weights fall off vehicles in our state each year. This bill passed by a strong majority in the House but the Senate failed to act.

Chemical use reduction

The House passed, by a vote of 95-0, my bill to increase the responsibilities of the Office of Waste Reduction to include consideration of sustainable production and chemical use reduction.

This measure not only will considerably reduce toxins in manufacturing, but will present a positive approach to better manufacturing methods.

In Massachusetts, a similar law resulted in a major "job boom" because of new methods which also saved large sums of money previously used in cleanup of toxic and hazardous materials. New, creative methods were found to produce better products using safer materials.